

Law Enforcement and the Older Driver

Presented by:
Chief Robert L. Ticer

for the 2013 Michigan
Traffic Safety Summit



Purpose

To provide you with the knowledge you need to effectively interact with older drivers



Objective

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Discuss how the aging process affects older drivers.
- Discuss effective methods for interacting with and evaluating older drivers.
- Discuss appropriate referral options available for older drivers.





Reasons To Care

Today Show

On the road, aging boomers are
safety risks?

<http://video.today.msnbc.msn.com/today/40105877>

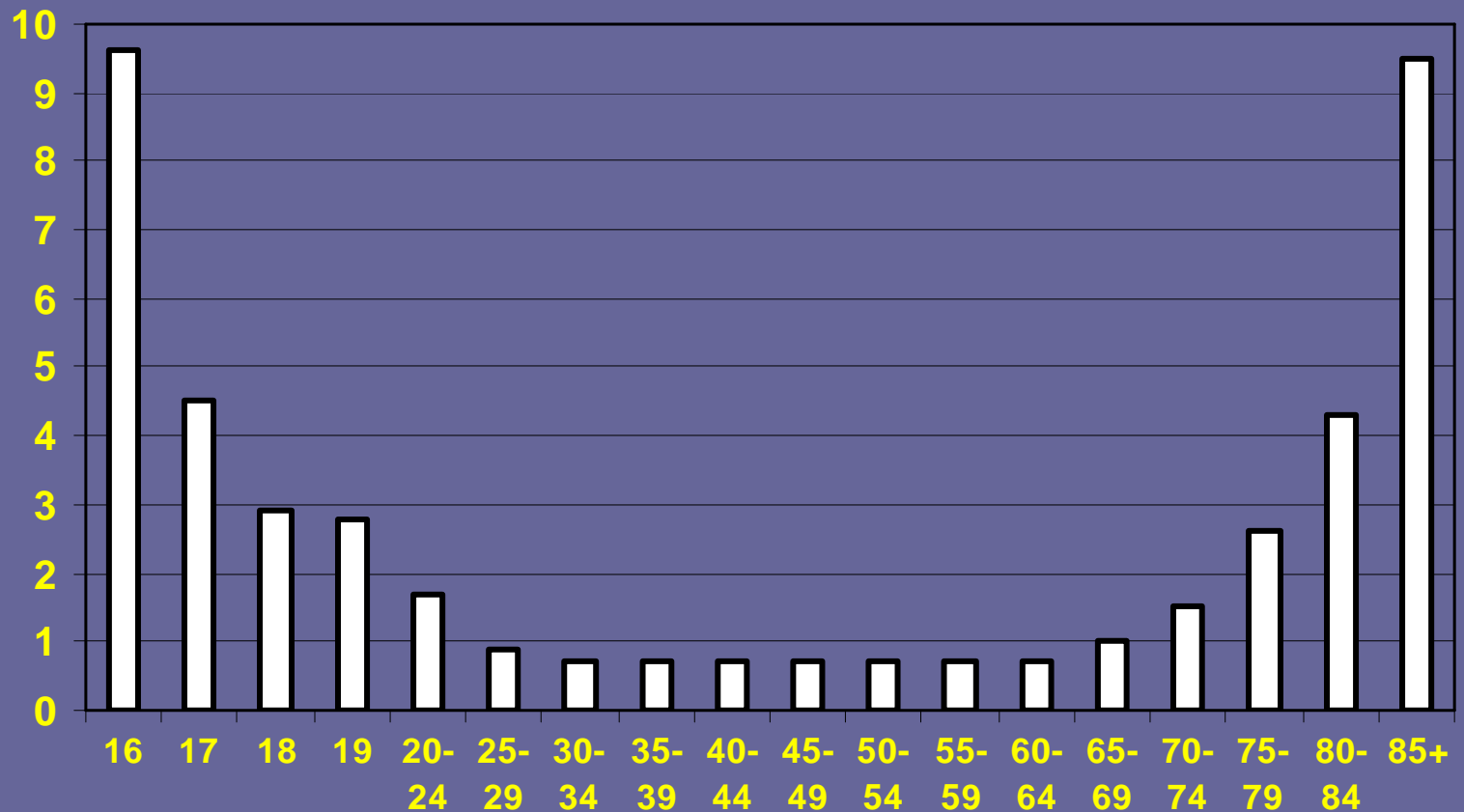


Older Driver Numbers

- Older Drivers are defined as those 65 and older
- In 2005, there were:
 - 36 Million older people
 - 29 Million licensed older drivers
 - 800,000 crash-involved older drivers
 - 150,000 injury-crash-involved older drivers
 - 6,215 fatality-involved older drivers



Driver Fatality Rate (per 100 million VMT)

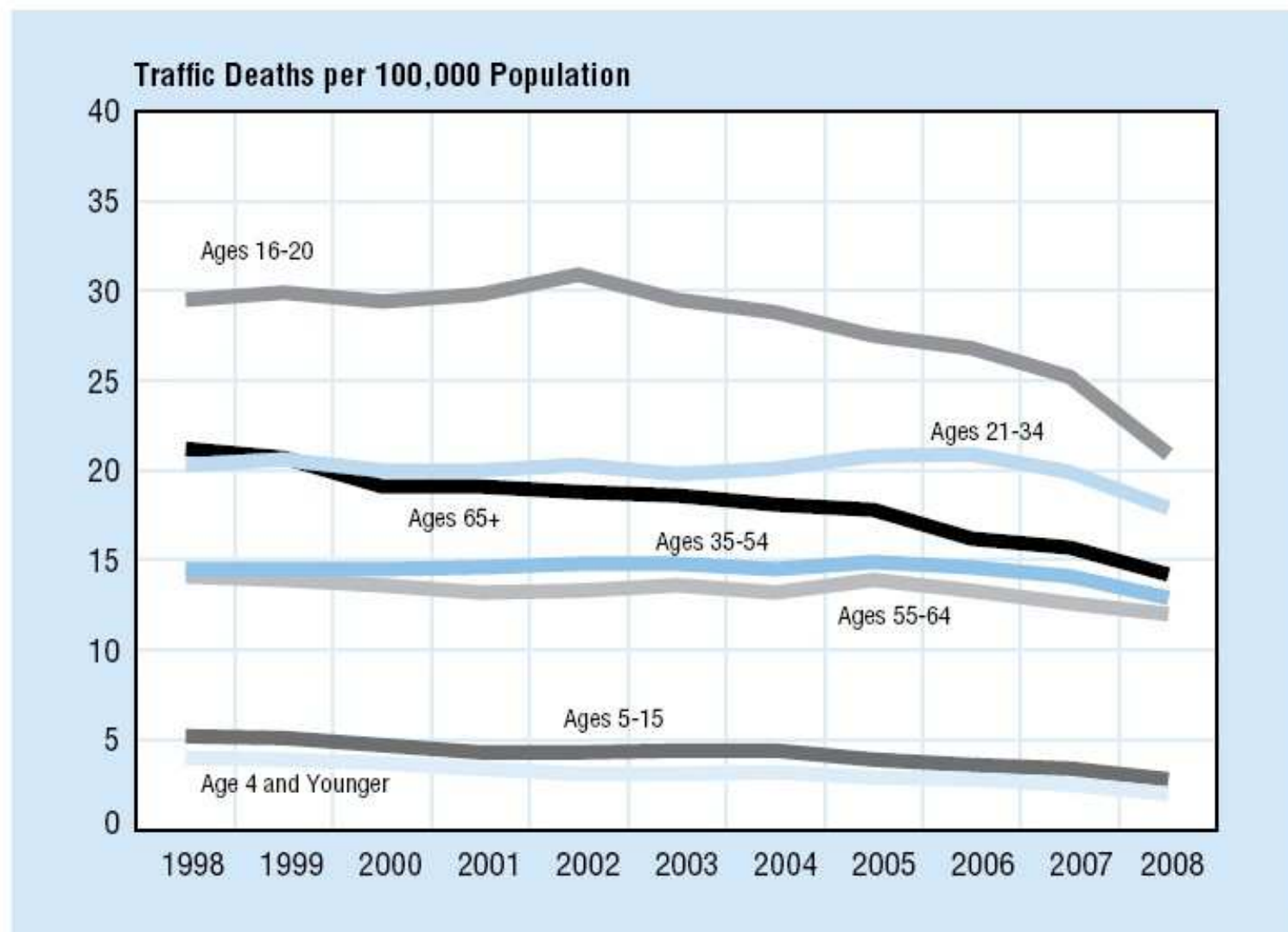


Source: FARS 2001 and NHTSA 2001





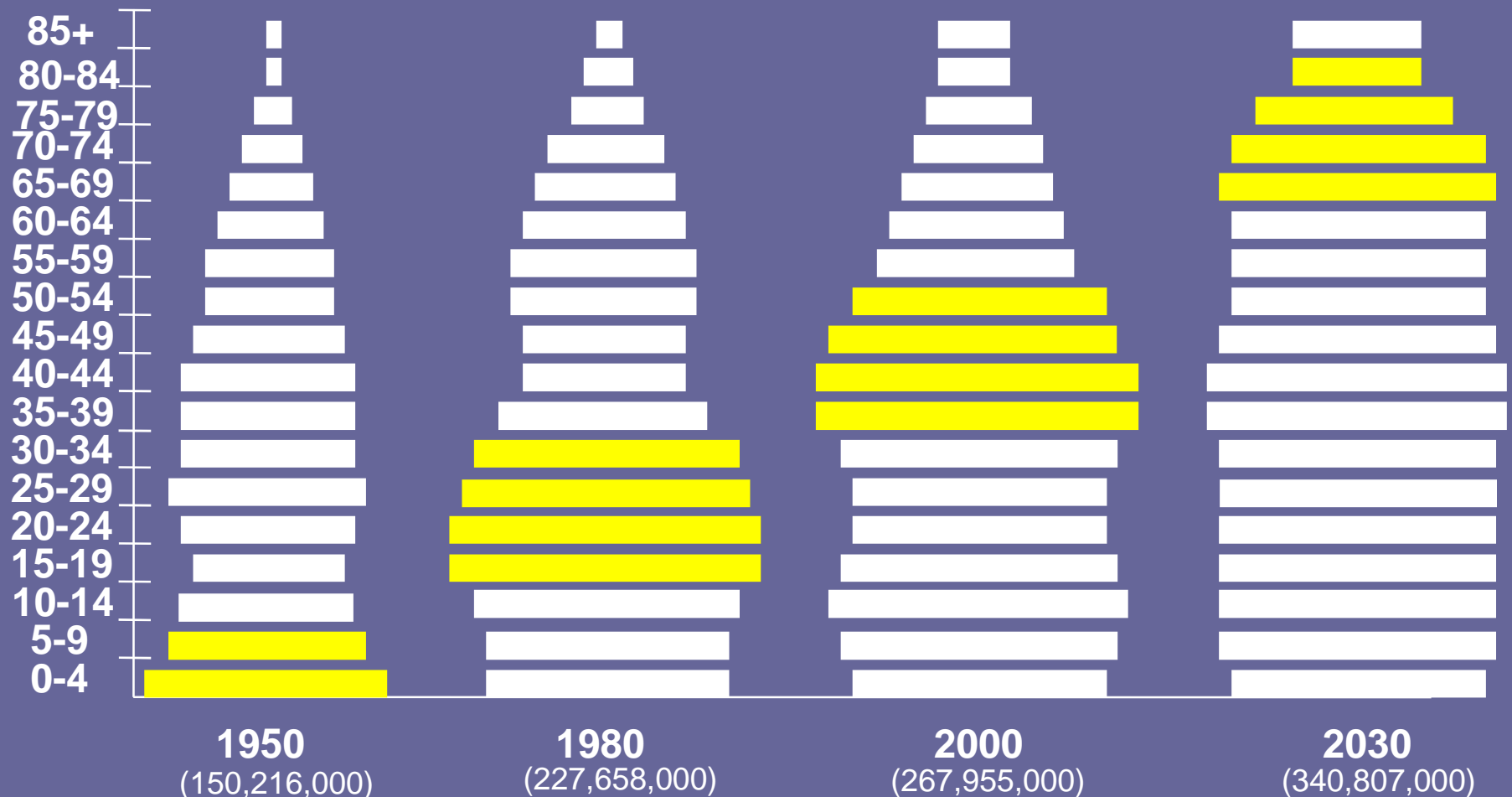
Figure 1
Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality Rates by Age Group, 1998-2008



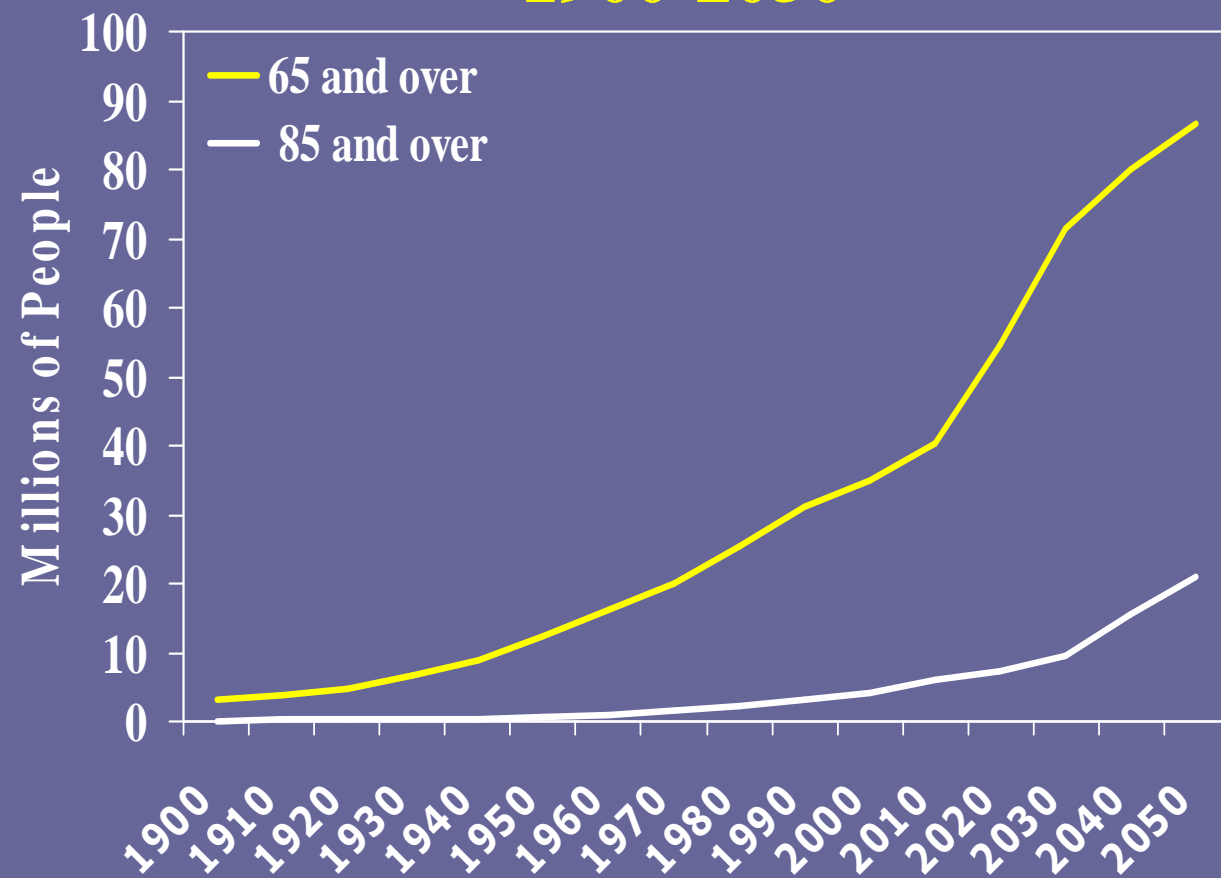
US Population By Segment

(Squaring the U.S. Population Pyramid 1950-2030)

Age



Number Of People Age 65 and Over and 85 And Over 1900-2050



The Dena Kline Story

- Could this happen in your Jurisdiction??



Realities: *Dena Kline*

2/23/07 4 pm: leaves home to pick up prescription.
5 pm: uses credit card at gas station.
7 pm: police stop for DUI, allowed to drive.
11 pm: police stop for DUI, allowed to drive.

2/24/07 12:45 am: reported as DUI driver, stops for directions.
1:30 am: stops for directions
9 am: retired deputy reports vehicle turned in his driveway.

2/25/07 Clackamas Sheriff begins search using aircraft, off-road vehicles, marine patrol and detectives.

2/26/07 Sheriff uses “mass telephone” calling system asking to BOL.

2/27/07 Sheriff’s Marine Patrol uses sonar near boat ramps along Willamette River.



Outcomes

06/23/07 7:43 pm:

Marine Patrol
locates
submerged car
occupied by
deceased
person at Sports
Craft Marina
boat ramp in
Oregon City.



Law Enforcement Role

- **Serve as a source for helpful aging driver information**
- **Document traffic stops**
- **Identify and refer at-risk drivers to licensing agency**



Facts

- Today there are 29 million older drivers
- Older drivers are the fastest growing population group
- Traffic fatality rate is higher for older people



Understanding Aging Factors



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

**All five senses
decline with age.**



**True – All five senses
do decline with
aging. Vision &
hearing are some of
the most common
officers will deal
with.**



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

**Older people are
irritable and angry.**



False – Personality is not a characteristic of age. Be aware, though, that age-related medical conditions can affect personality.



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

Most older persons who suffer from illness or impairments reside in long-term care facilities.





**False – Only about 5%
are in long-term care
facilities. Most older
persons want to
function
independently.**

Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

Most older persons suffer from some dementia or become senile due to the aging process.



True and False – Only about 10% of those over age 65 are affected by dementia, but up to half of those 85 and older have some dementia. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 4 million suffer from the disease.



Testing Your IQ of Aging

True or False:

Law enforcement officers are not prejudiced and show no bias towards older drivers.





False – Officers often fail to take appropriate action or document encounters with older drivers.

Older Driver Traffic Stops

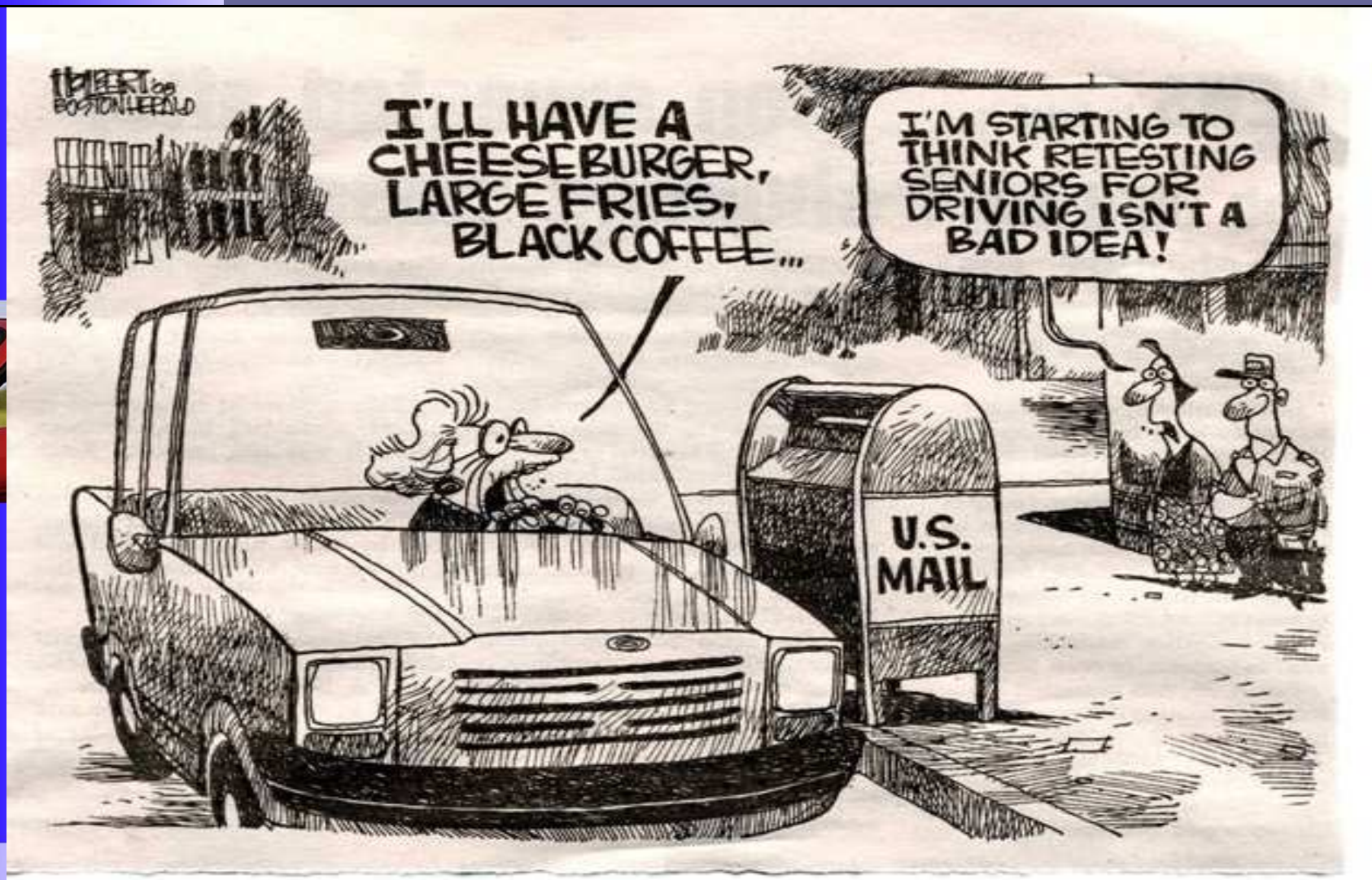


The Importance of Stopping Traffic Violators

- What is bias-based policing?
- Who do officers tend to stop?
- What is the philosophy & mission of law enforcement?
- What is the role of law enforcement?



DUI



Impaired Driving

- Today, more medication is prescribed to older people than to any other age group
- Use the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)
- Understand the differences between older and impaired



Older Driver Cues for Law Enforcement

- Cognitive impairment can affect driving behavior
- Become familiar with the cues



DUI or Medical Condition?

- Observe balance & fine motor skills
- Standardized Field Sobriety Tests have not been validated for individuals over age 65
- Make observations while driver is out of vehicle
- Can the driver effectively communicate for 10 or more minutes?



Driving with Dementia

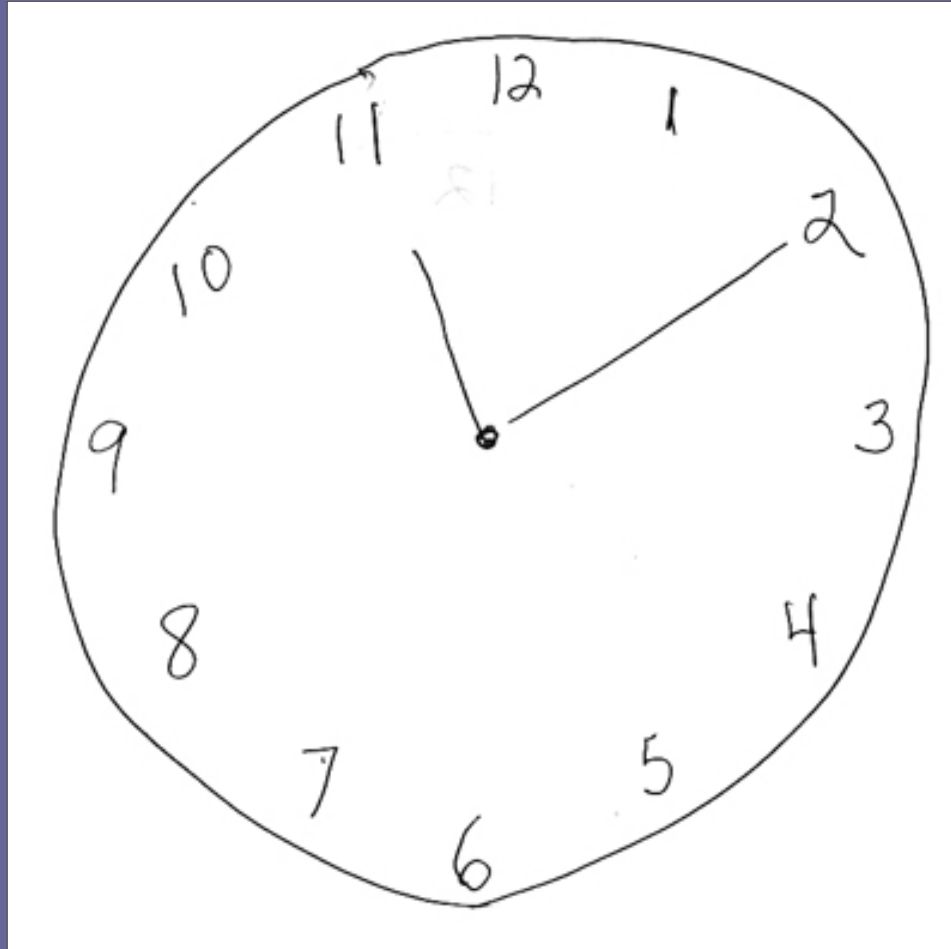
Many behaviors associated with dementia increase a person's chance of interacting with law enforcement



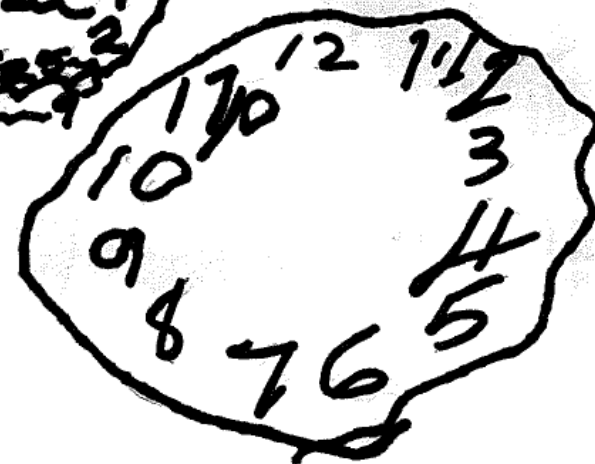
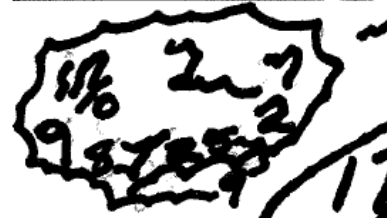
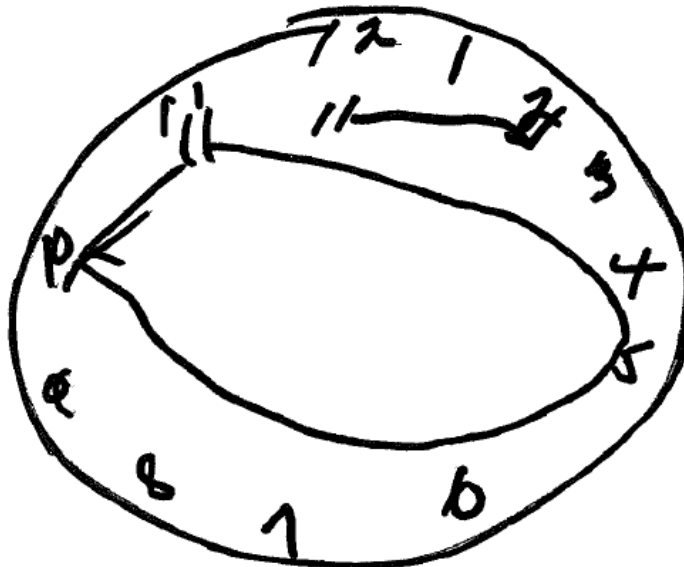
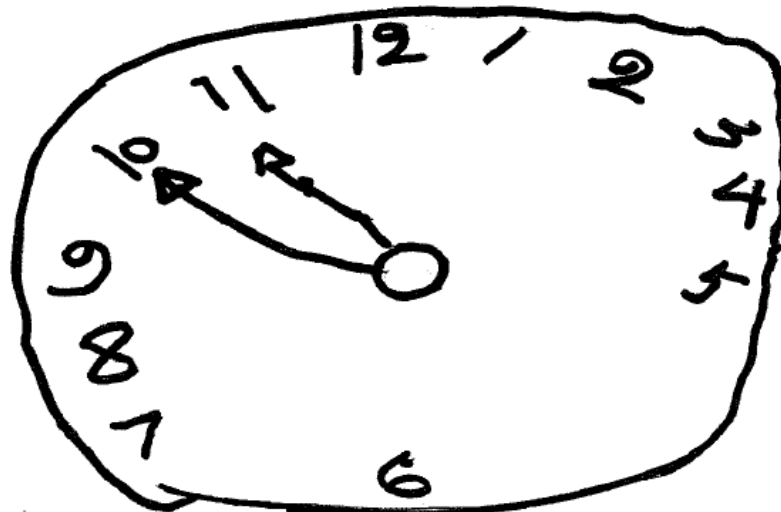
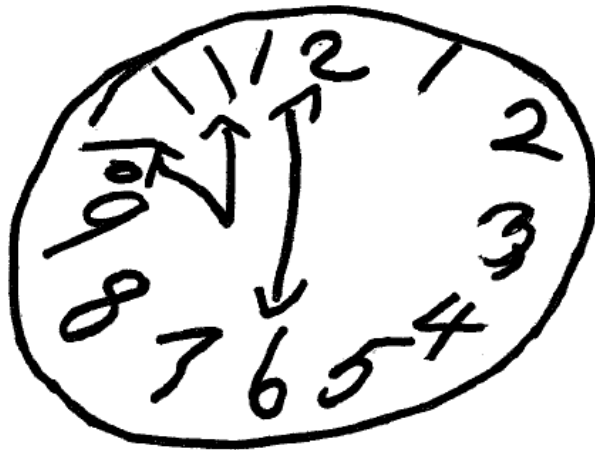
- Forget where they parked their car and report it stolen
- Get lost while driving
- Have a car crash and leave the scene
- Abandon their vehicle and wander away
- Unsafe driving

Source: Alzheimer's Association

Clock Drawing

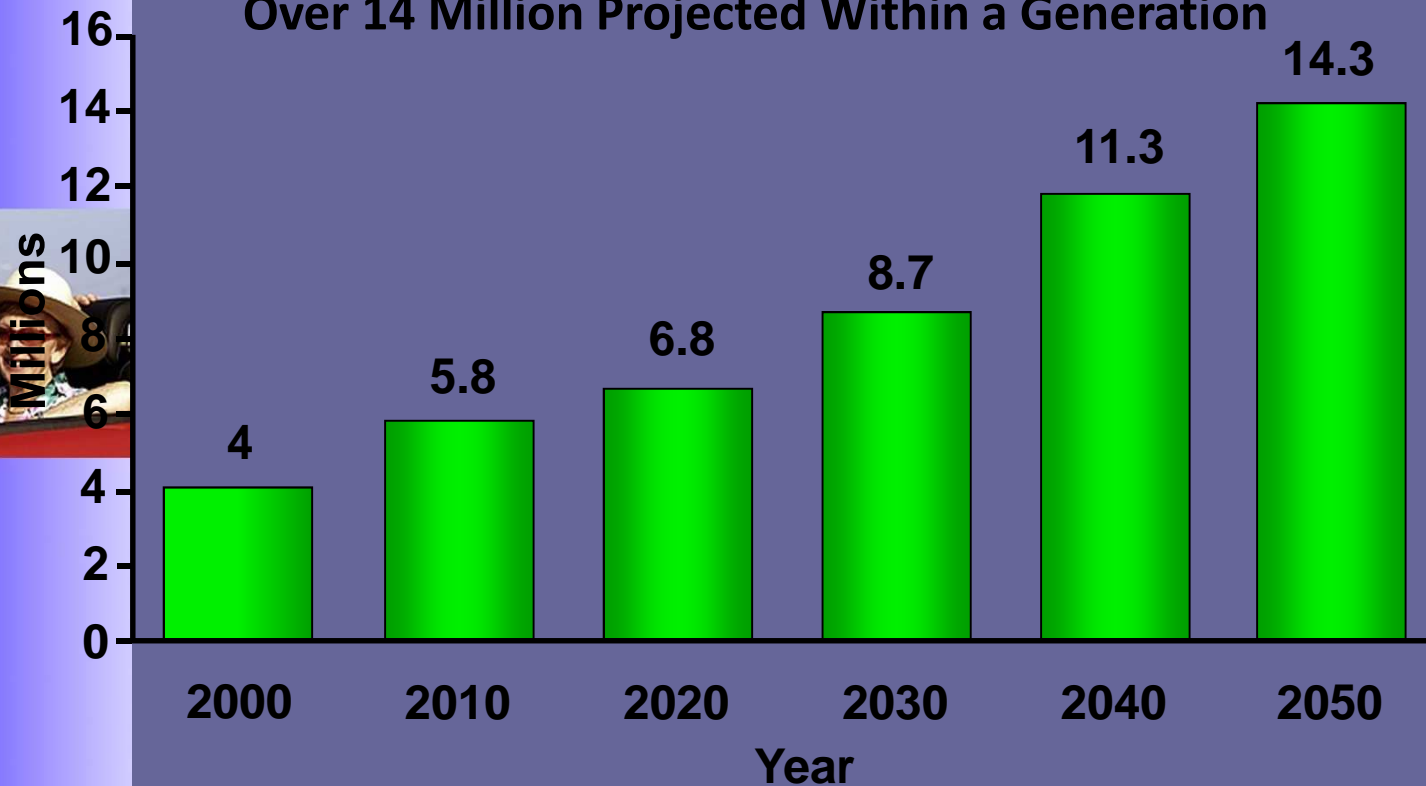


Clock Examples



AD Projections by 2050

4 Million AD Cases Today
Over 14 Million Projected Within a Generation



Source:

Promoting Older Driver Safety in Missouri:

Education & Outcomes

Tom Meuser, PhD, University of Missouri – St. Louis

Mild Dementia

- Forgetfulness, especially details of recent events
- Subtle disorientation
- Daily functioning is fine
- Seems perfectly normal to those other than family
- May get lost in unfamiliar surroundings
- Ability to safely operate a motor vehicle may or may not be impaired



Moderate/Severe Dementia

- Significant forgetfulness:
 - Difficulty stating address and phone number
 - Unable to retain new information (e.g. appointments)
- Communication: word finding is difficult and may appear confused when questioned
- Acute disorientation (e.g. not knowing where they are)
- Incapable of operating a motor vehicle safely





Potential Effects of Medication

- Slower reaction time
- Visual changes including difficulty tracking, depth perception, peripheral vision
- Decreased coordination (brake/gas)
- Lack of attention
- Confusion
- Drowsiness
- Decreased ability to perceive hazards and identify risks



Other Conditions & Driving

- Parkinson's Disease
- Epilepsy
- Respiratory Disease
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Stroke



Vehicle Observation

- Visual inspection of the vehicle (interior & exterior)
- Modifications to the vehicle?
- Notes to the driver (reminders)



Documenting the Traffic Stop

- Introduction to the driver
- Document all traffic stops in writing (citation or warning)



Why Document the Traffic Stop?

- Written history
- Important to law enforcement agency; licensing authority; driver's family/physician
- Tracking history to determine potential unsafe developing patterns



Special Concerns During the Stop

- Officer safety is paramount
- More officers killed during traffic stops than by felonious assaults
- Offenders of all ages have assaulted & murdered police officers
- Be aware of medical conditions that may cause individuals to react violently



Referrals



Completing the Reexamination Request

Use the form required in your state

- **REPORT specific BEHAVIORS you observed**
 - Physical impairments
 - Mental impairment



Completing the Reexamination Request

- Avoid reciting only violation codes or statute and ordinance numbers
- Avoid use of jargon or slang



Michigan Driver Re-examination

- Michigan law authorizes the Department of State to reexamine a driver when there is reason to believe the driver may be unable to operate a motor vehicle safely. The Department relies on information from law enforcement, medical personnel, Secretary of State branch staff, and concerned citizens, including family members, to identify unsafe drivers.
- The Department of State provides a form, called a Request for Driver Evaluation (OC-88).



Michigan Driver Re-examination

MDOS REQUEST FOR DRIVER EVALUATION

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/OC-88_16727_7.PDF



When to complete a Driver Re-examination?

- [E:\Cognition.wmv](#)
- [E:\Physical Function.wmv](#)
- [E:\The Vision.wmv](#)



Family Referrals

- Locate the family
 - Check for cell phone
 - Look for I.D. bracelet
 - Look for documents in the vehicle
- Families may ask you to intervene with their loved ones



Community Referrals

- Area Agencies on Aging
- Alzheimer's Association
- Adult Protective Services
- Local Medical Organizations



Referrals to Engineers

- State and County roadway engineers don't always know trouble-spots
- Develop a partnership



Referrals to Driver Trainers

- Some drivers need practice or rehabilitation to drive safely
- Driver trainers are good community resources



Older Driver Community Relations Programs



Collaborations

Partners include:

- Law enforcement management
- Line officers
- The community



Course Summary

You have learned:

- How the aging process affects older drivers.
- Effective methods for interacting with and evaluating older drivers.
- Appropriate referral options available for older drivers.



Upcoming Older Driver Training Programs (NHTSA)

- Older Driver Program Management
- Older Driver Law Enforcement Program Training in CD ROM.
- Both Programs expected to be complete in 2013





NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC
SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Older Driver Program Management

Intro to Older Driver Safety



The Importance Of Older Driver Prog. Mgmt.

This course will teach individuals in a Highway Safety Office tasked with coordinating an older driver program how to develop and manage a comprehensive program to reduce older driver crashes, injuries and fatalities.

The Older Driver Safety Program Management course is most beneficial for participants who

are:

- State and community coordinators of older driver safety
- Managers
- Law enforcement liaisons
- Older driver coordinators within State DOT
- Program managers at State DOT
- Program managers at nonprofits with programs for older people



Thank You!

Robert Ticer

970 748 4015 wk

970 977 0057 cell

rticer@avon.org

